part of the United States. The American flag still flies over the Islands. "The Star Spangled Banner" still concludes patriotic programs. Sovereignty over the Islands still remains in the United States. The Philippines will thus remain until American sovereignty is withdrawn, the independence of the Philippines proclaimed, and the American flag drawn down. As a result the Philippines is not an independent state, since, subject to the. ultimate control of the United States. Nevertheless the Filipino people can think of themselves, and properly, as a nation.

The new government which has been organized in the Philippines has been designated "the Commonwealth of the Philippine Islands," abbreviated by the Philippine Constitution to "the Commonwealth of the Philippines." The word "commonwealth" is not unknown in public law. It signifies self-government. States of the American Union have been called commonwealths. Bryce entitled his work on the American Government, *The American Commonwealth.* As another example, there is the Commonwealth of Australia, a self-governing dominion within the British Empire. The Commonwealth of the Philippines is in nature a transition government which will exist during a decade of economic readjustment

A question has arisen as to whether the Commonwealth of the Philippines would be entitled to join the League of Nations. The better opinion is that the Commonwealth would

be considered a fully self-governing state or dominion eligible to membership in the League. But as the foreign affairs of the Commonwealth are under the direct supervision and control of the United States, the permission of the latter country would be necessary, before the Commonwealth of the Philippines could apply for admission to the League of Nations.